

7-11 ABU DHABI

STATEMENT OF SAUDI ARABIA
OPPOSING INCLUSION ON THE AGENDA OF COP-9

ITEM 7(d) OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

"Proposal by Canada for a decision on modalities for the accounting of assigned amounts under Article 7, paragraph 4, of the Kyoto Protocol in relation to cleaner energy exports"

Saudi Arabia strongly opposes inclusion on the COP-9 agenda of Item 7 (d) of the Provisional Agenda, concerning a proposal by Canada.

As explained in Paragraph 60 of the Annotated Provisional Agenda for COP-9, this is the same item Canada requested be included as Item 8 (c) on the Provisional Agenda of COP-8. That proposal asked the COP to give Canada an additional 70 million tonnes of CO² equivalent assigned amount units during each of the five years of the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol.

At SBSTA-16, the Group of 77 and China said it "has strong reservation on the Canadian proposal." During last year's discussion of adoption of the COP-8 agenda, the Group said it was not necessary to debate the many substantive problems of the Canadian proposal, because of a very strong procedural reason for not including Canada's proposal on the actual COP-8 agenda. That was because the SBSTA had never completed its discussion of the Canadian proposal, so that it could make a recommendation to the COP concerning it.

Lacking consensus for inclusion on the COP-8 agenda, the proposal was held in abeyance for COP-8. It was agreed to put in on the Provisional Agenda for COP-9, where it is Item 7(d).

As was the case at COP-8, COP-9 should not consider it in the absence of a recommendation or some enlightenment from the SBSTA. Absence of advice from SBSTA is very important in view of the widespread opposition expressed in the SBSTA to the Canadian proposal by almost all developed and developing countries which substantively addressed the proposal.

At SBSTA 17, Canada made an entirely different proposal. This was explained in Canada's submission at SBSTA-18, this summer, found at FCCC/SBSTA/2003/MISC. 7. I quote: "Canada's proposal at SBSTA 17 was completely different than the earlier draft COP decision put forward by Canada at SBSTA 16 requesting up to 70 Mt of annual credits of CO² for Canada's exports of cleaner energy to the United States."

It is the old proposal, originally made at SBSTA-16, that was the subject of the Provisional Agenda for COP-8, but was not included on the actual COP-8 agenda, and is now Item 7(d) of the Provisional Agenda for COP-9. But, since SBSTA-16, in June 2002, even Canada has made no effort to have the SBSTA consider that proposal.

So, in addition to the fact that the COP has no advice from the SBSTA regarding the old Canadian proposal, Canada's asking the SBSTA to consider a completely different proposal should be regarded as effectively taking that old proposal off the table. In these circumstances, there is no point in continuing to carry the old proposal on the provisional COP agendas. It has no place on the actual COP-9 agenda we now are considering. And, of course, until the SBSTA completes consideration of the new Canadian proposal, which it did not do at SBSTA-18, the new proposal is not ready for consideration on a COP agenda.

Therefore we strongly oppose the adoption of the COP-9 agenda including Item 7 (d) of the provisional agenda.